

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-54. (cancelled)

55. (currently amended) A method of lowering body weight in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a substantially pure fatty-acid monoester, or a precursor thereof, of an estrogen and a fatty acid, wherein the estrogen is ~~selected from part of the molecule~~ is a 2 hydroxy estrone derivative or a 2 hydroxy estrogen derivative; and the fatty acid consists of at least 20 carbon atoms and with the proviso that, when the 2 hydroxy estrone derivative or 2 hydroxy estradiol derivative is steroidal and has a steroid ring system with a C-3 position and a hydroxyl group at the C-3 position, the acyl group of the fatty acid is attached to the hydroxyl group at the C-3 position of the steroid ring system in the fatty acid monoester, in combination with amounts of at least one member selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and cosmetically acceptable excipients in an amount sufficient for the purposes thereof.

56-84. (cancelled)

85. (previously presented) A method of lowering body weight in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a substantially pure fatty-acid monoester, or a precursor thereof, of an estrogen and a fatty acid, wherein the estrogen is selected from the group consisting of a 2 hydroxy derivative of estrone, diethylstilbestrol, estriol, estradiol and ethinyl estradiol, the fatty acid consists of more than 19 carbon atoms, in combination with amounts of at least one member selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and cosmetically acceptable excipients in an amount sufficient for the purposes thereof.

86-90. (cancelled)

91. (previously presented) A method of lowering body weight in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a substantially pure fatty-acid monoester of a 2 hydroxy derivative of estrogen and a fatty acid, wherein the estrogen is selected from the group consisting of a 2 hydroxy derivative of estrone, diethylstilbestrol, estriol, estradiol and ethinyl estradiol, the fatty acid comprises at least 20 carbon atoms, and with the proviso that, when the estrogen is steroidal and has a steroid ring system with a C-3 position and

a hydroxyl group at the C-3 position, the acyl group of the fatty acid is attached to the hydroxyl group at the C-3 position of the steroid ring system in the fatty acid monoester, in combination with amounts of at least one member selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and cosmetically acceptable excipients in an amount sufficient for the purposes thereof.

92-116. (cancelled)

117. (previously presented) A method of lowering body weight in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a monoester of either a 2 hydroxy estrone derivative or a 2 hydroxy estradiol derivative and a fatty acid having at least 20 carbon atoms in combination with amounts of at least one member selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and cosmetically acceptable excipients in an amount sufficient for the purposes thereof.

118. (cancelled)

119. (currently amended) A method of lowering body weight in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a substantially pure fatty-acid monoester of either a 2 hydroxy estrone derivative or a 2 hydroxy estradiol derivative, wherein part of the ~~molecule~~ monoester is a 2 hydroxy estrone derivative or an estrogen derivative; and the fatty acid comprises at least 20 carbon atoms, in combination with amounts of at least one member selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and cosmetically acceptable excipients in an amount sufficient for the purposes thereof.

120-123. (cancelled)

124. (previously presented) A method of lowering body weight in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a substantially pure fatty-acid monoester of an estrone derivative or an estrogen derivative; and the fatty acid comprises at least 20 carbon atoms and with the proviso that, when the estrone derivative or estradiol derivative is a 2 hydroxy estrone derivative or a 2 hydroxy estradiol derivative which is steroidal and has a steroid ring system with a C-3 position and a hydroxyl group at the C-3 position, the acyl group of the fatty acid is attached to the hydroxyl group at the C-3 position of the steroid ring system in the fatty acid monoester, in combination with amounts of at least one member selected from

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the group consisting of pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and cosmetically acceptable excipients in an amount sufficient for the purposes thereof.

125-137. (cancelled)

138. (new) The method of claim 55, wherein the mammal is a human.

139. (new) The method of claim 85, wherein the mammal is a human.

140. (new) The method of claim 91, wherein the mammal is a human.

141. (new) The method of claim 117, wherein the mammal is a human.

142. (new) The method of claim 119, wherein the mammal is a human.

143. (new) The method of claim 124, wherein the mammal is a human.